

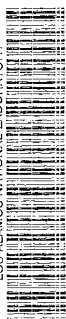
the Atom



Lee M. Ozymer



LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY



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'Quotable Agnew'

"If some major power thinks about destroying us, or some other country thinks about trying to sucker Russia and the United States into knocking each other out, I want them to have second thoughts. I want them to consider Los Alamos, and drop the whole idea."

—Denver Post, Aug. 23, 1970

"Shortly after World War II the U.S. was in a position, having a nuclear monopoly, to annihilate any country completely without fear of any similar counter-attack. It was undoubtedly unique in the history of mankind that a nation had this capability and did not take advantage of it. Historians will note many outstanding events in the 20th century. Hopefully this fact will not go unheralded."

—Testimony before the Senate Committee on Armed Services, April, 1971

"There clearly has been a movement of anti-technology in this nation, but what those behind it don't realize is that all our problems were brought about by people and that the solutions, if there are any, will be brought about by technology."

—Los Alamos Monitor, January 1, 1978

the Atom

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ON THE COVER:

After he had worked in the darkroom a few hours, photographer LeRoy N. Sanchez created this stipple-like image of Harold Agnew from a previous "regular" negative taken by colleague Bill Jack Rodgers. Agnew is resigning his Director's position as of March 1, 1979; other photos by these two PUB-1 photographers, as well as a pencil sketch of Agnew, help illustrate this special issue.

2

Historical
datelines



Preview:

Harold Agnew's career is flavored with a uniqueness not experienced by many. When he announced his resignation as LASI, Director late in 1978, he triggered a flurry of comments from around the country. As the University of California attempts to choose a successor by his March 1 departure date, speculation continues in many offices.

We decided to devote an *Atom* issue to this man, who has been Director since 1970, and who has witnessed an increase in the Laboratory's nonweapons efforts in that time.

He's now heading for the presidency of General Atomic company in San Diego and obviously has no plans to be anything but vibrant and active in the coming years. It seemed pretentious and condescending to saturate his image with saccharine praise, so we have tried to present something of him through the eyes of others who know him. This issue, after all, was to be a surprise, and we were not to interview the Director.

We ended with several portraits of the man, and a photo essay produced by Bill Jack Rodgers, known as "my shadow" as he followed Harold Agnew for a day. Writers in this issue include Charlie Mitchell, Vic Hogsett, John Ahearne, and the editor. Nan Moore and Eulalia Newton assisted with research. Credit is also due to LeRoy N. Sanchez, John Flower, and Kathi Geoffrion Parker.

We also included a compilation of his quotes, over a 25-year period, since we didn't speak to him directly. If you've never met the man, you may know him a little from this *Atom* issue.

8

Beverly
Agnew



18

15 faces



Historical datelines

SOUTH PACIFIC, August 6, 1945—Harold M. Agnew, a member of the research team from Los Alamos Laboratory that helped develop the first atomic weapons, today flew as a civilian scientific observer in the strike against Hiroshima, Japan.

Prior to joining the Los Alamos Laboratory project in 1943, Agnew was the youngest member of the group under noted scientist Enrico Fermi which created the first fission chain reaction at Stagg Field in Chicago, Illinois.

Swim team letterman Harold Agnew, second from left, with Coach Williams, Art Condon, and Don Self.



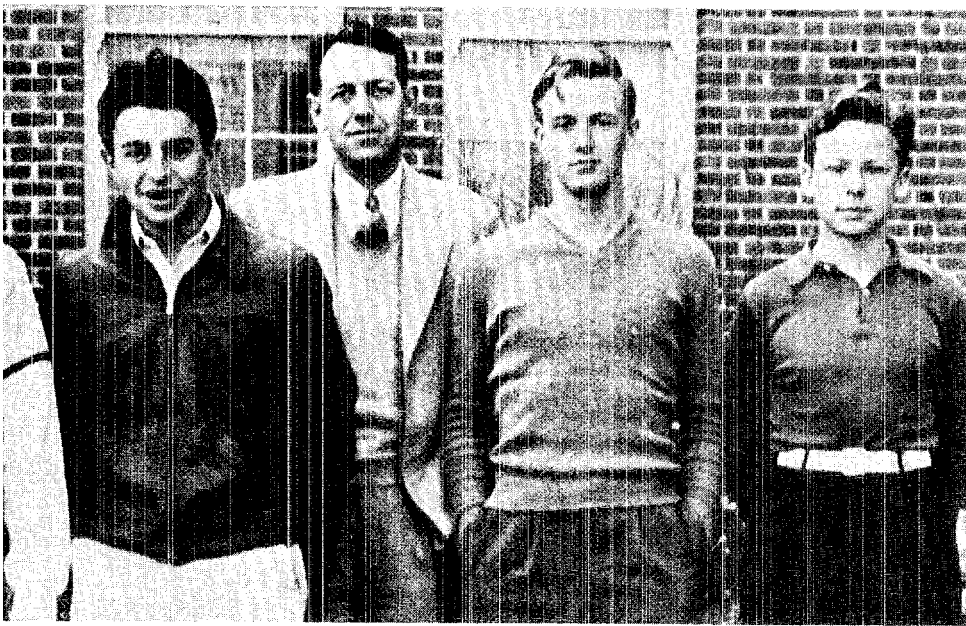
LASL file photo
Tinian Island, 1945: Four who gathered for a photo before the strike against Hiroshima, Japan, were (top) Harold Agnew and Louis Alvarez; (bottom) Larry Johnston and B. Waldman. Agnew flew as scientific advisor with the 509th Bombardment Group.



LASL file photo
Bill Robbins took this photo of a younger Harold Agnew in the Pacific after he caught what was reputed to be a record 55-inch barracuda in Enewetak lagoon, 25 years ago. At a later colloquium, Roy Reider said this picture represented "Harold and a barracuda in the Pacific. The barracuda is on the right."

om right, posed for the 1938 high school annual. Others were Frank Stiles, Sid Bank,

LASL file photo



LASL file photo

Harold Agnew as he appeared in the 1938 high school yearbook.



LASL file photo

In 1964, Harold Agnew became Weapons Division leader, replacing Max F. Roy. Six years later, Agnew would be Laboratory Director at the age of 49.



LASL file photo

Harold Agnew accepted the Ernest O. Lawrence Award April 27, 1966, from James T. Ramey, Atomic Energy Commission member.

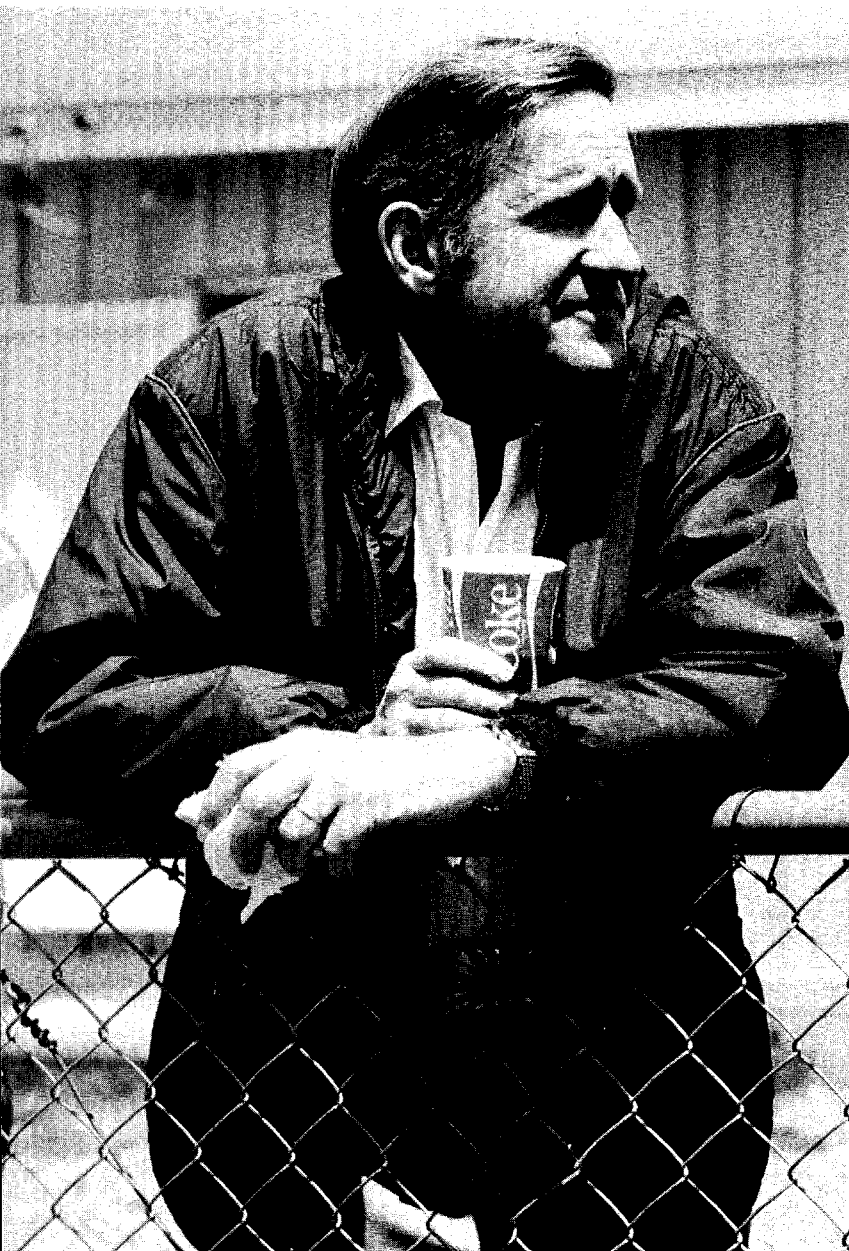
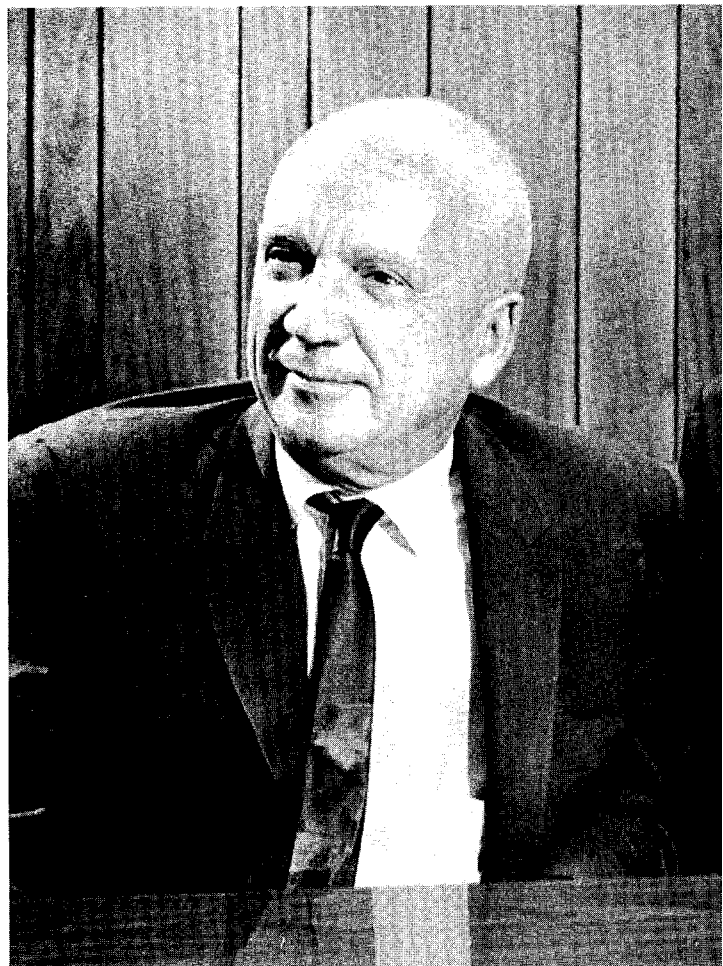


Photo by Bill Jack Rodgers

An opening game of the 1971 youth baseball season provided a moment of relaxation for the Director.

Former Director Norris Bradbury and new Director Harold Agnew



LASL file photo

Harold Agnew and President Lyndon B. Johnson met in Washington in August, 1966, on the 20th anniversary of the Atomic Energy Act. Two new AEC commissioners were also sworn in then.

Agnew, in a 1970 change-of-command portrait.

Photo by Bill Regan



CHICAGO, ILL., 1949—Harold M. Agnew has joined the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory's Experimental Physics Division after earning his doctorate in physics earlier this year under Enrico Fermi at the University of Chicago.

Agnew, who was born in Denver, Colorado on March 28, 1921, did his undergraduate work in physics at the University of Denver from which he graduated in 1942 as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

SANTA FE, N.M., January 30, 1955—Harold Agnew was sworn in as the first Los Alamos state senator in history in a short but impressive ceremony in the senate chambers today.

Agnew, in a short speech after he had been seated, said, "The people of Los Alamos are indeed grateful. I consider this a very great honor to represent Los Alamos."

The 33-year-old scientist, who was among the first to come to the Atomic City and has lived there most of the time since 1943, expressed thanks to the county commission for his appointment, and to Governor Simms and senators and representatives who fought for the bill which gave Los Alamos a senator.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., October 19, 1961—Harold M. Agnew, alternate W-Division leader, has accepted the NATO post of science advisor to General Lauris Norstad, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

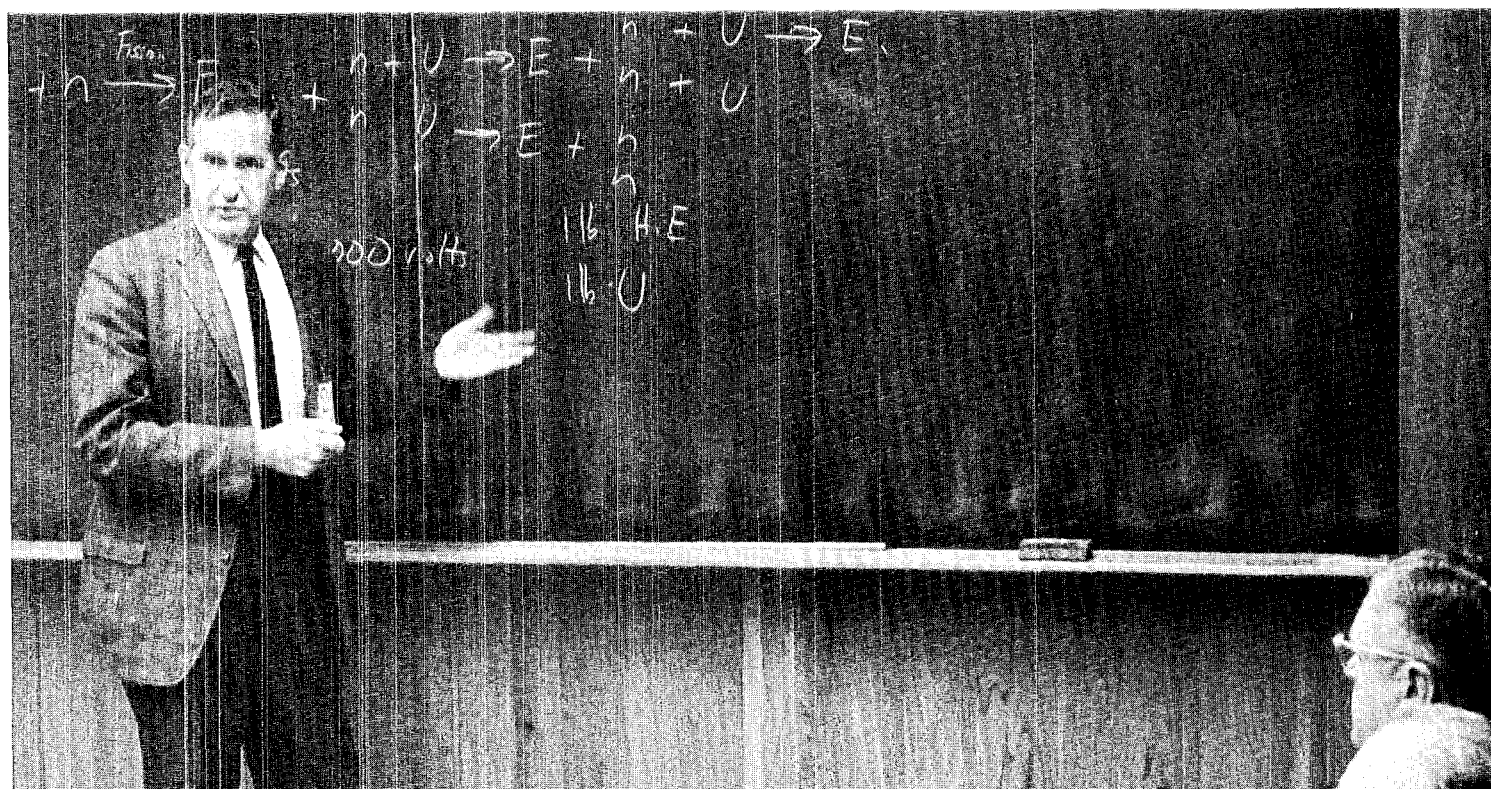
Agnew will take a leave of absence from the Laboratory for "an indefinite period," beginning about December 15. He will take his wife Beverly of P-DO and their children, Nancy and John, with him to Europe. The Agnews plan to live in Paris, and Agnew's office will be at SHAPE headquarters near Versailles.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., August 6, 1964—Harold M. Agnew, 43, for the past 2½ years scientific advisor to the Allied command in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, has been named head of the Weapons Division at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., April 3, 1966—Two Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory staff members are among five U.S. scientists named today to receive the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Memorial Award for 1966. They are Harold M. Agnew, leader of the Laboratory's Weapons Division, and Ernest C. Anderson, member of the biophysics staff.

Photo by Bill Regan

Agnew walked an audience through a set of equations during a 1970 meeting.



Announcement of the awards was made by Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. The award is made upon the recommendation of its General Advisory Committee and with the approval of the president.

Established by the Commission in December, 1959, the award honors the late Ernest O. Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron and director of the radiation laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley and Livermore, which bear his name.

The citations of the LASL recipients read:

Agnew—For his highly significant contributions to the development of nuclear weapons and for his outstanding success in working with the armed services to assure the maximum safety and effectiveness of atomic weapons systems.

Anderson—For outstanding contributions to nuclear medicine, to biological research, to archeological dating, and for the development of liquid scintillation counting which made possible early neutrino experiments and the liquid scintillator whole body counter.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., January 3, 1968—Harold M. Agnew, head of the Weapons Division of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, has been reappointed chairman of the U.S. Army Scientific Advisory Panel. The reappointment for a second two-year term was recently announced by Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor.

The Army Scientific Advisory Panel, composed of scientists, educators, and industrial leaders, advises the Secretary of the Army and his staff on scientific and technical problems.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., 1971—Harold M. Agnew, Director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, has received the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Public Service Award for his dedicated service as a member of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel which contributed significantly to

the safety and success of the Apollo Program.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., March 25, 1975—Harold M. Agnew, Director of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The election occurred at a recent meeting of the AAAS Council in New York City. Agnew thus joins a select group of American scientists in receiving this national honor.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., March 15, 1978—On March 1, 1978, the United States Senate confirmed President Jimmy Carter's nomination of Harold M. Agnew to be a member of the General Advisory Committee of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., November 3, 1978—In a letter dated October 27, 1978, to University of California President David S. Saxon, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory Director Harold M. Agnew stated his intention to resign his position as Director effective March 1, 1979.



A successor to Agnew will be named by the University of California. Agnew is the Laboratory's third Director since 1943.

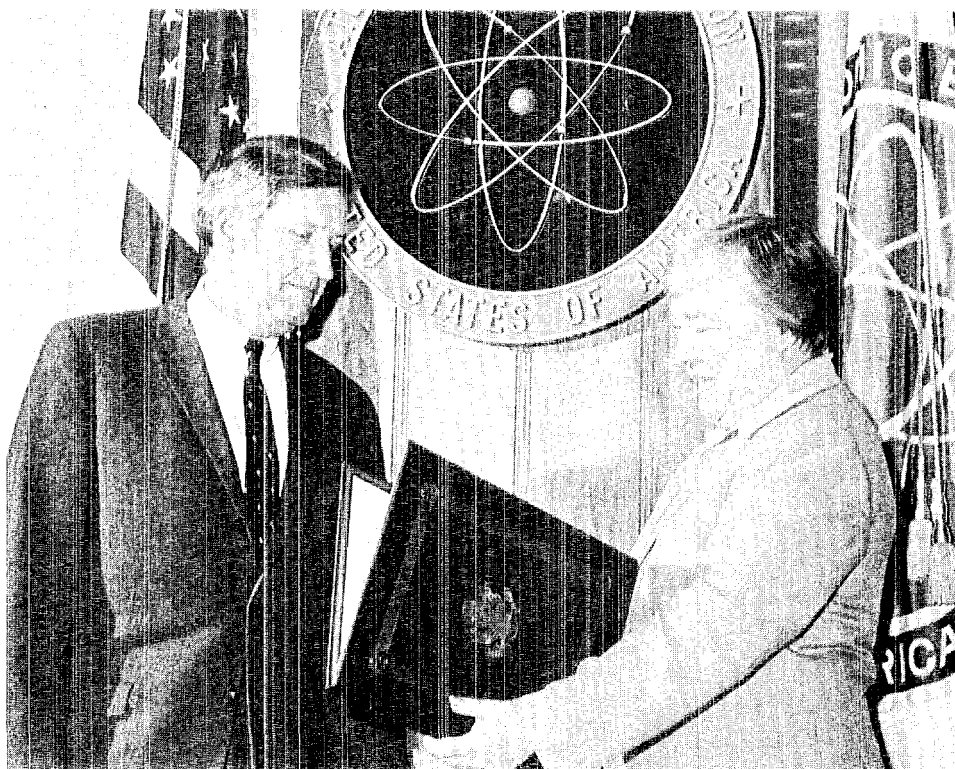
—John Ahearne



Photo by Bill Jack Rodgers
During the visit of Vice President Gerald Ford in the summer of 1974, this pose prompted an impromptu caption that the two men later enjoyed: "What do you think? Eight ball in the side pocket?"



Photo by Bill Jack Rodgers
The Director took his place in line for a vaccination during the swine flu scare of 1976.



LASL file photo
Dixy Lee Ray, then chairing the Atomic Energy Commission and now governor of Washington, presented an award to Harold Agnew seven years ago. The citation noted the University of California's leadership in nuclear technology and was one of seven given nationally.



Photo by Bill Jack Rodgers
Tennis buff Harold Agnew returns a high one during a 1978 benefit match for the Los Alamos United Fund drive.



"At one time I thought I would like to retire to Santa Fe. But now that we are leaving, I know that I don't want to do that. I want to come back and retire in Los Alamos, and that's why we are going to keep our house."

Beverly J. Agnew

There's a blue BMW parked in the driveway at 1459 46th Street in Los Alamos. The car has a prestige plate up front that says "Beverly" and a New Mexico license plate. Soon the BMW will sport California plates, and it's likely to be parked in La Jolla, near San Diego, for Beverly Agnew is leaving town.

Jean-clad, informal, she offers bischochitos and coffee to PUB staffers who have come to interview and photograph her.

The photographer fusses with window shutters, searching for the illusive combination of light and shadow that will frame a portrait of Beverly. She's been through this before, and accepts it graciously as she discusses, with wry humor, the impending move to California.

The writer apologizes for what might seem to be an invasion of privacy—after all, the Agnews' private life is nobody's business—and Beverly Agnew laughs. She

understands that a special issue of *The Atom* is being prepared in secrecy, to mark her husband's retirement from LASL after 35 years of service. She also understands that the questions are likely to be pretty predictable and the answers she gives may well be the same, but then her candor gives the lie to predictability:

"Harold is retiring from the University (of California)," she stresses. "He'll work for General



Atomic for three years, and then we just don't know—perhaps we'll come back to Los Alamos then and he can either beachcomb or make jewelry!"

Los Alamos is home. That she makes clear.

"At one time I had thought I would like to retire to Santa Fe," she comments. "But now that we are leaving, I know that I don't want to do that. I want to come back and retire in Los Alamos, and that's why we are going to keep our house."

The house is a Western area original, with a typical, graceful fireplace in the living room, hard-

wood floors (still exposed), and beamed ceilings. It is a showcase for paintings (some of them Beverly Agnew's), for a profusion of plants, for a truly eye-catching collection of "found art," much of it fashioned from Zia salvage materials.

She'll miss Zia salvage, she admits, but "not as much as I would have at one time. They used to have so much stuff, but lately I think Harold has told them to hold on to everything and there hasn't been much worth having!"

More than that, she'll miss serving on the board of regents at Highland University in Las Vegas,

"There were cots all over the place," Bev reminisces. "We two women took turns with the household chores... A group of us still has a Chinese-style buffet at least once a year, a legacy of the early years."

New Mexico, and the board of the First Northern Savings and Loan in Los Alamos.

"There are bridge clubs I've belonged to for years, hiking groups I've joined, old friends..."

In their place she hopes to put daily tennis games in California's balmy climate, painting classes, and a closer association with her family.

"Nancy (the Agnews' daughter, now Mrs. Jack Owens) lives in Berkeley. It's a lot closer to La Jolla than New Mexico, and we'll see more of them and of our grandsons, John, 7, and David, 3."

John Agnew, her son, lives in Sacramento, also much closer to the Agnews' new home in the La Jolla area.

Beverly Agnew is excited about the future, and claims her husband is, too. She stresses what Harold Agnew has said to the press:

"The Laboratory is in great shape, and it is a good time to leave."

The La Jolla-San Diego area is beautiful, Beverly says, and living there will be "like a three-year vacation—there are so many things I want to do, and places I want to see. It will be a challenge—now that's predictable—but it really will. Harold feels that way and he's looking forward to going."

Although the proximity of their family is important, that did not count in the selection of a job, when Harold Agnew announced his retirement and began to look at offers, his wife says.

"Harold chose General Atomic because it was the most exciting offer, as far as he was concerned," she comments. "It was as simple as that."



She does not envision any major changes in her home life.

"Harold has always travelled a lot, and yet he is almost always home on weekends. I expect he will travel in the future, particularly in the beginning, but I keep so busy, and I don't expect that to change, either," she says.

Looking back, Beverly Agnew reminisces easily about Los Alamos.

"In the spring of 1943, Harold came to Los Alamos and I joined him two weeks later," she recalls. Agnew jokes about his selection for Project Y, saying he came to Los Alamos because "Oppie" (J. Robert Oppenheimer) needed secretarial help on the project. Beverly had worked for Oppenheimer during his visits to Chicago, where Harold Agnew was a junior physicist working with Enrico Fermi's team on the first atomic pile at Chicago's Stagg Field. She joined Oppenheimer's staff in Los Alamos in the spring of 1943.

"People were pouring into Los Alamos in 1943," Bev Agnew recalls. Pouring is an accurate description, as the Army Corps of Engineers tried in vain to keep up with the influx of people. Los Alamos was a military post, but traditional spit and polish was largely lacking since the project, originally estimated to require about 100 scientists, had grown like Topsy.

Dirt streets ran in every direction in the new town that sprawled three miles from the guard gate that barred entry to all who did not have the required pass. A wooden water tower dominated the town, and all street directions were related to its central position in the ugly conglomeration of hastily erected temporary housing. Such housing as there was, was allotted according to need. The Agnews had no

children, and they were billeted in a three-bedroom "Sundt" apartment that already bulged with one married couple and six men whose families had not yet arrived in Los Alamos.

The Sundts, barracks-like apartments named for one of the original builders, were often said to have been erected by men who made a religion out of right angles. Angular, bleak, their back doors facing the streets to facilitate the delivery of coal, the universal fuel until the arrival of natural gas in 1947.

"There were cots all over the place," Bev reminisces. "We two women took turns with the household chores. One of the men did the cooking, and he gave us Chinese food for every meal except breakfast—then we usually got oatmeal and raisins. A group of us still has a Chinese-style buffet at least once a year, a legacy of the early days."

Of those early days, Beverly Agnew comments:

"There was some dissatisfaction, particularly with the shortage of housing, but mostly, we didn't mind. It was a frantic pace of living, and the majority of us were caught up in the excitement—I think a lot of this was generated because the average age of those living in Los Alamos during those early years was twenty-five—we rode with the times quite easily."

One consequence of the youth of the new community's residents was a baby boom. Three of the couples in the Agnews' Sundt had babies the first year they lived in Los Alamos. The town's military hospital soon devoted half of its facilities to a nursery. Nancy Agnew, who was born in Los Alamos, cost her parents a grand total of \$14—a dollar a day for Beverly's food while she was hospitalized. Nancy's birth certificate lists "P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe" as her parents' primary residence.

Young couples, many with infants, enjoyed progressive parties in the new community, for few

Beverly Agnew, circa 1940.

apartments had enough room for more than a handful of people. Menus often featured dishes from a dozen different countries, reflecting the hodgepodge of nationalities gathered on the rugged mesas of the Pajarito Plateau. Among the illustrious names that came to be associated with Los Alamos in one capacity or another during the war years were Edward Teller, George Kistiakowski, Kenneth Bainbridge, John von Neumann, Victor Weisskopf, Hans Bethe, Bruno Rossi, Emilio Segre, and, of course, Fermi.

Bev Agnew does not remember them as scientists whose names would go down in history, but rather as "just people."

As she talks about the early days in Los Alamos, she points to her

heavy sweater and apologizes for the coolness of her home.

"The central heating systems in the early days were not really too bad, but the resident who had the thermostat in his unit had control over the heat for all of the apartments," she explains. "Rose and Hans Bethe lived upstairs in a quadruplex we lived in, and Rose kept the thermostat turned down—Europeans were used to dressing for the climate, and it came to seem the sensible thing to do. I have been dressing for the climate and keeping our home cool ever since."

Bev Agnew was very close to the secret of Los Alamos, but when the awesome blast of the world's first atomic weapon rocked the desert at Trinity Site in the predawn hours of July 16, 1945, she was visiting her

parents in Denver (both she and her husband are Colorado natives) and Harold Agnew was one of those waiting on Tinian Island in the Pacific for the results of the test.

The Agnews left Los Alamos in 1946, not as part of the general postwar exodus, but for Harold to earn his doctorate under Fermi in Chicago. That mission accomplished, they returned to Los Alamos in 1949 and, except for an overseas stint while Harold served as scientific advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, they have lived here ever since, until now....

But as Bev Agnew reminds biscochito- and coffee-filled visitors as they exit: "We'll be back...."

—Barb Mulkin

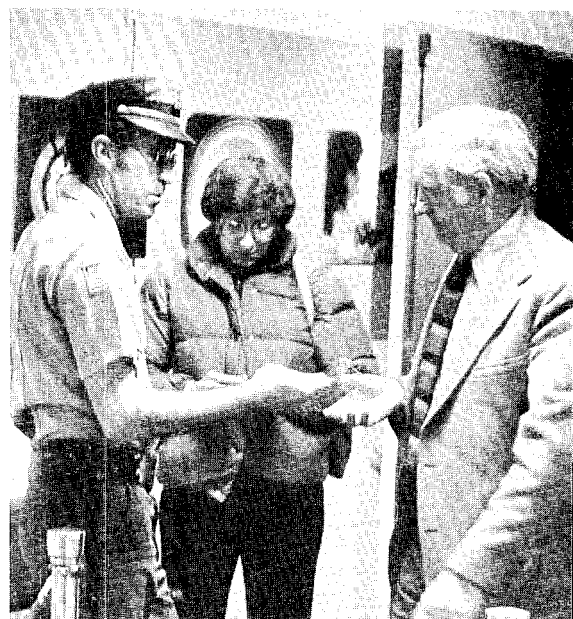


As Bev Agnew reminds visitors as they exit, "We'll be back..."

One day

We followed Harold Agnew through the paces of a day as "average" as any other to see what he normally comes up against. Below, he heads toward the Administration Building about 7:45 a.m. Right, he talks to secretary Nan Moore, before heading to a Tuesday morning colloquium. He must leave the talk early to prepare a program he will give to a group that includes U.S. Rep. Charles Rose, D-North Carolina, at lower right.

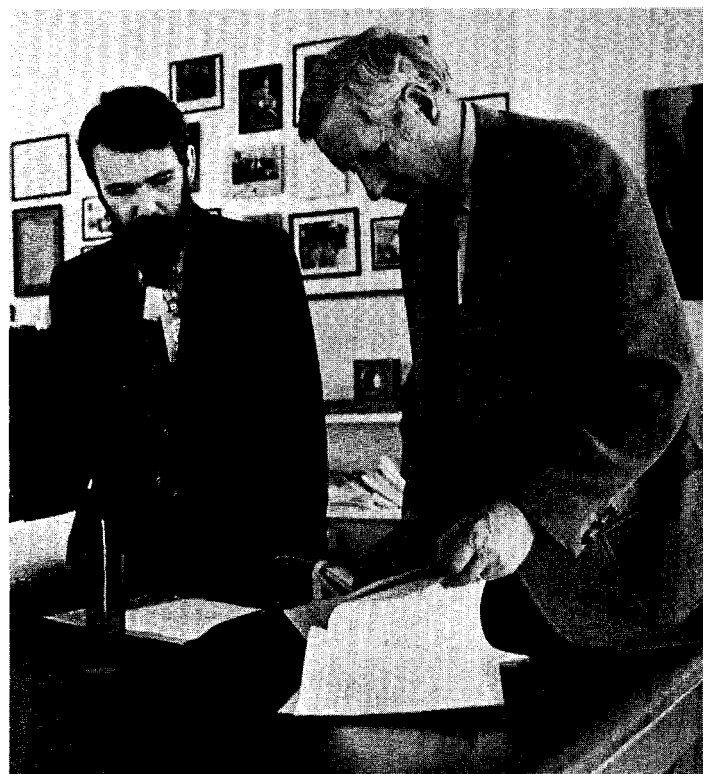


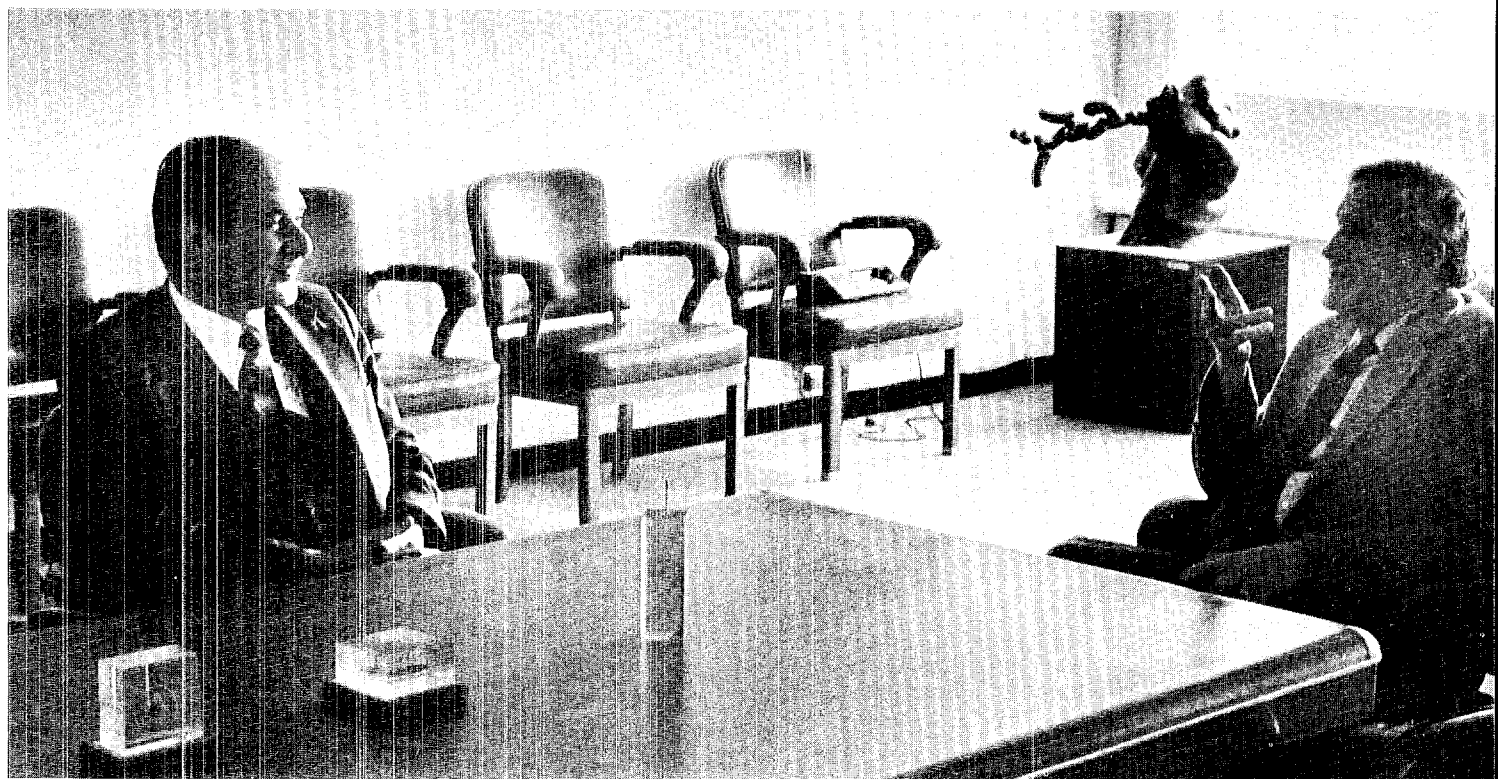


Photos by Bill Jack Rodgers



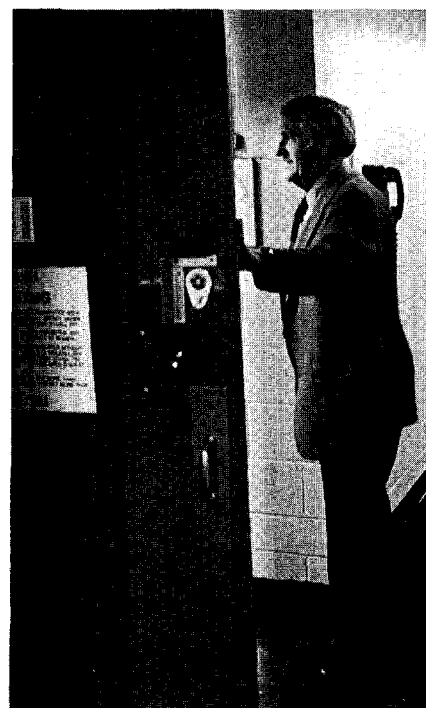
Agnew later gives a presentation to industrial leaders in the study center, above left, then listens at a weapons - related talk that involves Herbert Scoville, a DOE consultant, and Richard Sandoval of WPC-2. At far right above, Agnew makes final comments to the gathering and returns to his office. He checks material submitted for approval by Roger Perkins, the Laser Research Division leader, at right. Before lunch, Agnew talks with William Kriegsman, consultant with Arthur D. Little, Inc., and they talk about the nearly famous "bologna statue" in his office, in the photo at far right.

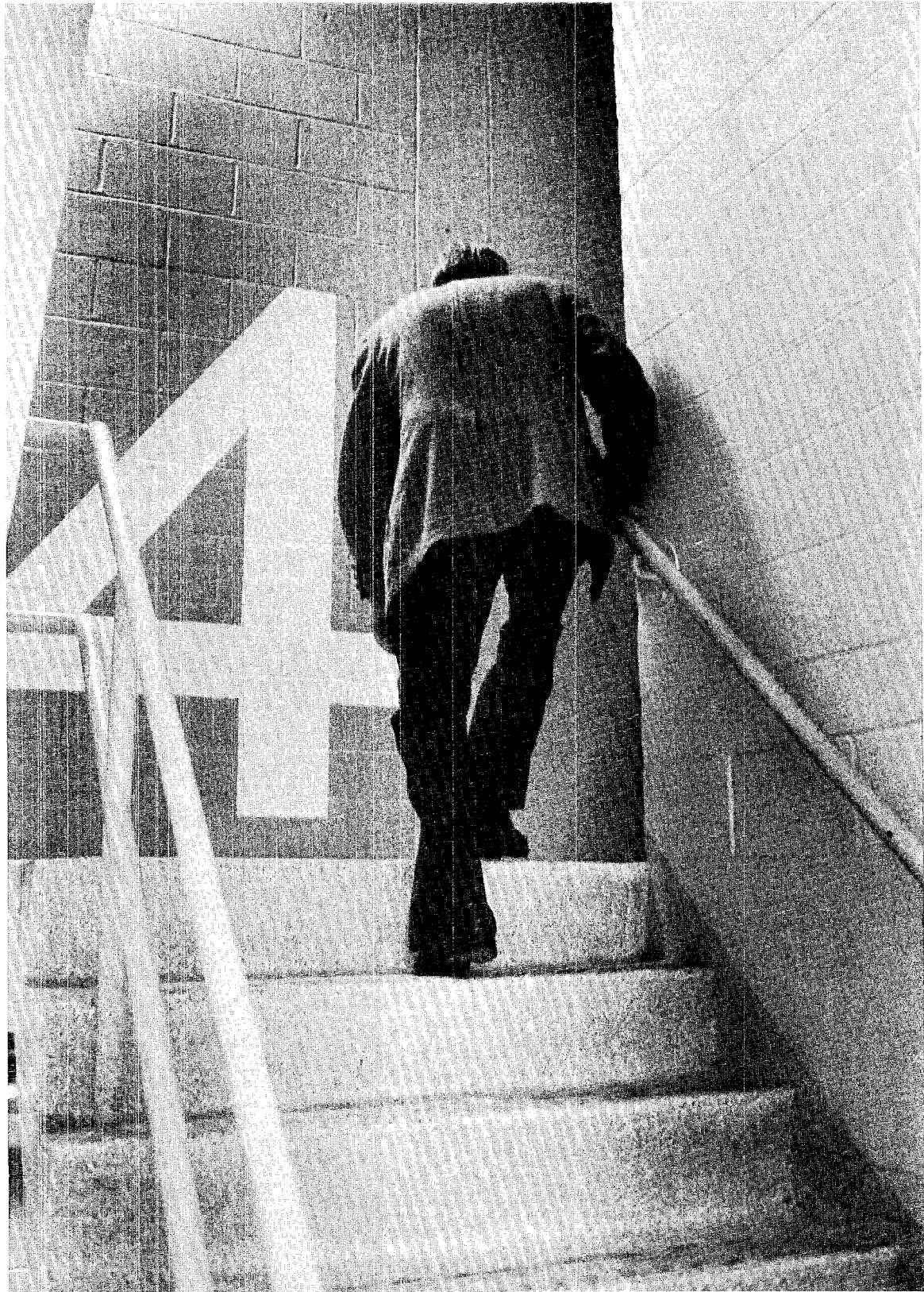






After lunch, Agnew contemplates a moment by his window, at left, before his next appointment. Baltimore Sun correspondent Muriel Dobbin, above, interviews the Director for what will be a front page story. At right, Agnew checks with personnel of TD-7, the group responsible for intelligence, and then climbs the two flights back to his fourth floor office, at far right.

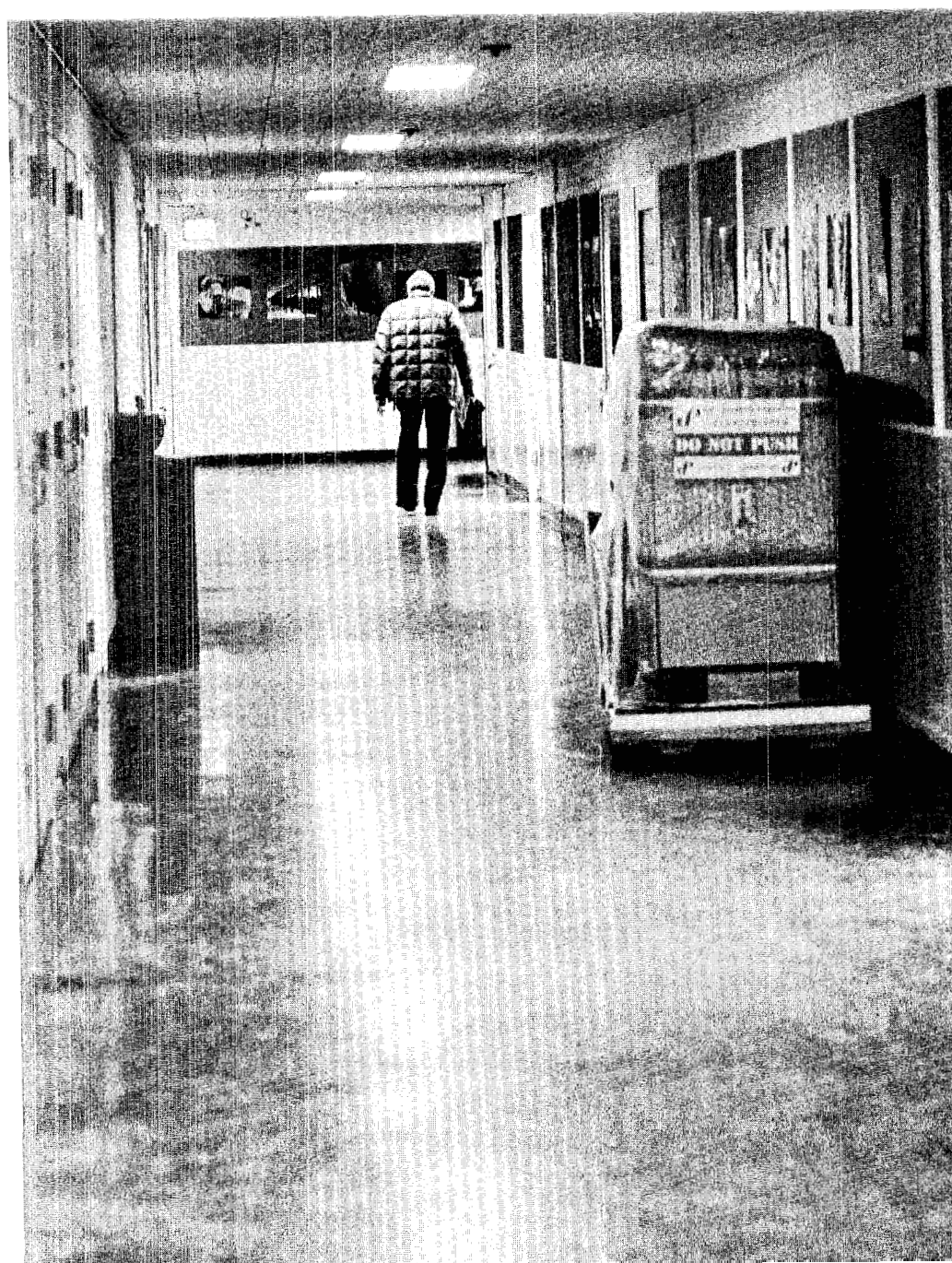


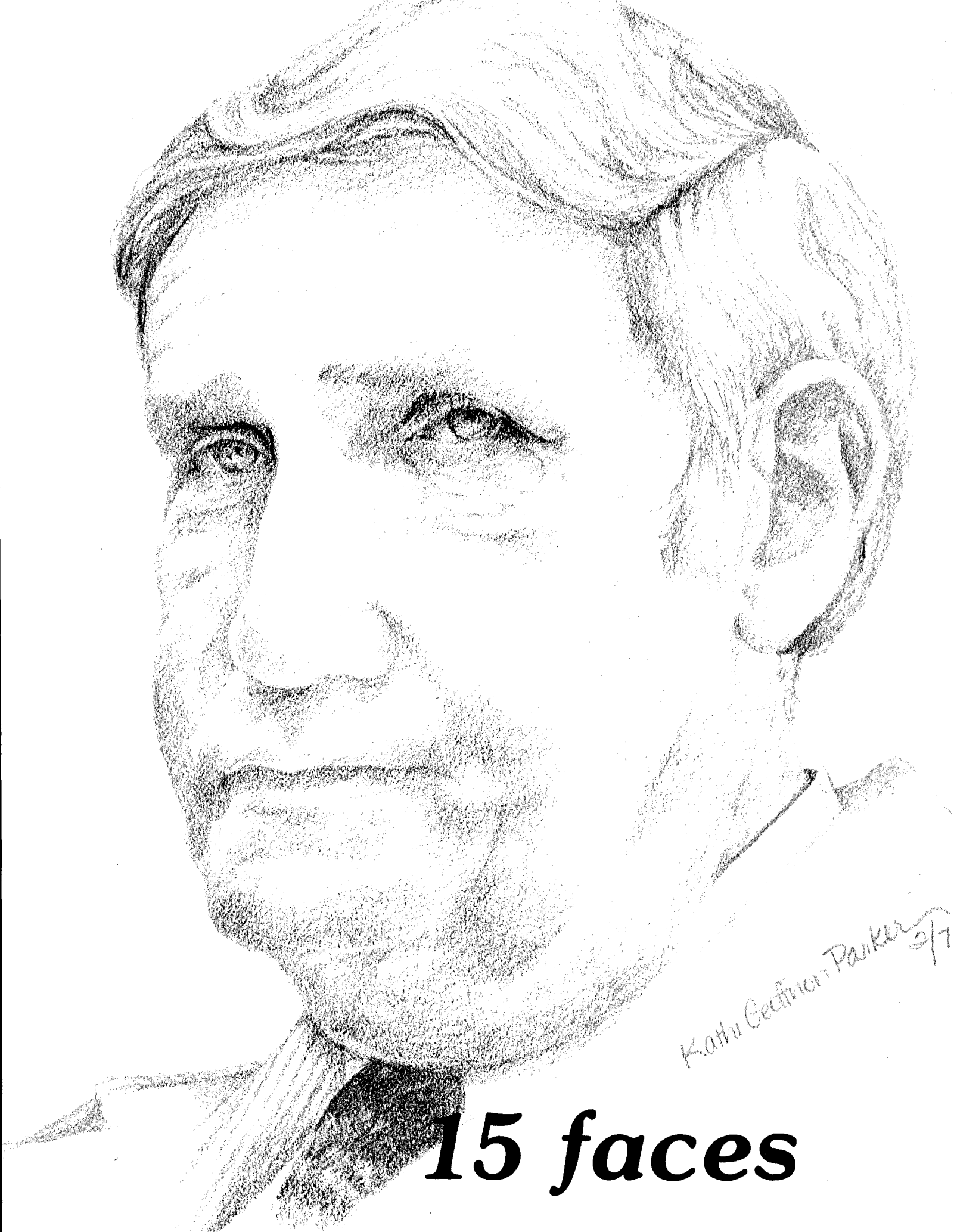






In series across top, Agnew goes through some of his reading material, makes telephone calls, and punctuates a conversation with a visitor. At left, Agnew has an after-five-o'clock talk with Charles Browne, associate director for administration, and shares a joke with Richard Taschek, associate director for research. Agnew then has a last-minute meeting with Nan Moore, who also has worked late, and heads down the hall of a quiet Administration building for the main door.





15 faces

Norris Bradbury

The 25-year patriarch of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Norris Bradbury, looked back upon the eight years Harold Agnew has served as Director with this pronouncement:

"He's been a good director. I'm sorry to see him quitting."

But Bradbury, who served as LASL Director from 1945 until 1970, said he understood Agnew's desire to quit and go into private industry.

"I guess he feels he is not getting much support except from his own people," Bradbury opined, adding that the bureaucracy may have reached the point where it "is bigger than the man."

Additionally noting a 50 per cent growth in LASL over the last 10 years and ever-mounting pressure from nuclear weapons opponents (some of the opposition coming from within the University of California), Bradbury admitted the directorship was an easier job in his day.

"It used to be," Bradbury said, "that the only people we had to deal with were the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Atomic Energy Commission. Now, Harold has to answer to about a dozen Congressional committees. He just about has to chase all over to get

anything done—just to talk to some bureaucrat.

"The Laboratory itself has become more complex," Bradbury continued. "I had maybe a half-dozen operations. He's got, I would guess, at least twice that many. That is a lot of activity to keep track of."

"He is very dedicated and sincere," Bradbury said. "He knows what he wants to do and how to get it done—he's got the knack for getting people to think the way he thinks—all qualities that make a good Director.

"He just came in and took over," Bradbury continued. "They had a committee, much as they are doing now. It was composed of members of the AEC and the University. Once he was selected, the changeover was quite straightforward—I moved out of the office and he sat down in it.

"He knew where most of the bodies were buried, how to look for such and such a problem, and how to take over the Laboratory. He moved in very skillfully. He didn't start to throw his weight around. Of course, as I said, in those days it was much easier than it is now. We knew all the Washington powers on a personal basis. Then, if any



Photo by Vic Hogsett

problem came up, we would fly to Washington and talk to the bosses, Glenn Seaborg (then head of the AEC) or anyone else at that level."

Briefly touching on the relationship LASL maintains with the University of California, Bradbury said: "Again that was easier, although the problems are about the same. This whole question of weapons work came up in my time—we had the Zinner Committee (looking into the relationship of LASL and the University). Sometimes the faculty and students didn't understand the work here, why it was done and for whom. It looks as if Harold has had the same types of problems, only more of them."

—Vic Hogsett

Bob Brashear

Forty-five years ago, Bob Brashear attended seventh grade in Denver with Harold Agnew at Byers Junior High on the south side. Brashear's family had moved to Denver from Brighton, Colorado, then a farming community 26 miles north of Denver. They then moved to Albuquerque, and for the most part he forgot about his former classmate.

After Agnew became LASL Director in 1970, his path crossed Brashear's for the first time since seventh grade. They looked at each other's faces and each blurted, "Byers Junior High!" at a Laboratory reception.

"He is a hard, fair man," said Brashear, who has worked in PUB-2, the museum group, for years, and who has been manager of the Study

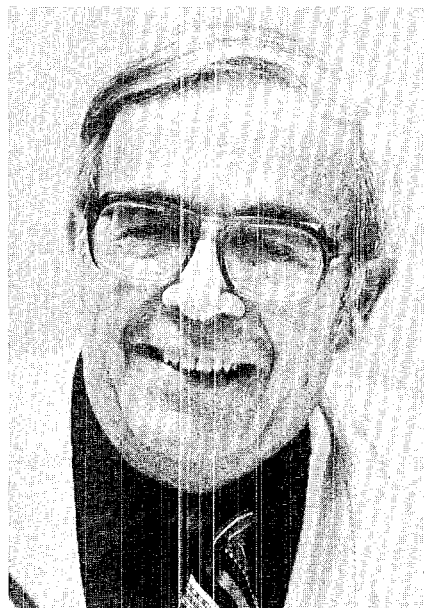


Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Center. "On the social side of things, he's worked just as hard as we have. At the extra-hours receptions, he's there too."

Brashear sees in Agnew a man who has expanded the scope of the Laboratory's public relations and one who has always supported Bradbury Science Hall. "He always expected us to take his guests there and tell them about the Laboratory," said Brashear.

"He's also very sociable and at ease in any crowd. He moves easily with generals, postdoctoral researchers, members of Congress, University Regents. He's worked hard to make the country more

aware of the Laboratory, while retaining its research excellence and diversity of programs."

Like others, Brashear has picked up the phone on occasion to find the Director on the other end with a request. "He's rather brusque, and he has to get things done, but I've never known him to be overbearing," said Brashear. "He's not an unreasonable man, from the view of any status or occupation. He can talk of anything from science to the temperature of a wine."

One of Agnew's favorite jackets is known to be a corduroy coat from a used clothing store, but another

item turned up at one evening reception once. "He had a fireman's coat on," said Brashear, "just a nice blue coat from surplus. Some may call him tight. He does know the value of a buck, and I think the Laboratory has profited by it."

Brashear recalls from the Byers Junior High days: "We would all eat lunch rapidly and then play Prisoners' Base or other running games outside.... We considered Harold Agnew one of the smart ones, but never guessed at his potential or future leadership."

—Jeff Pederson

Jean M. Davis

When Jean Davis arrived at the secret Project Y in Los Alamos in 1943, her dinner hosts the first evening turned out to be Harold and Beverly Agnew.

"My husband had known the Agnews at the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago," said Davis, who recently retired after working as LASL's Affirmative Action Officer. "I came to Los Alamos before my husband because there was a need for clerical people, and there would be an advantage in securing housing too."

The Agnews lived in a Sundt apartment and took in people who were waiting for their families to catch up with them. One of these people, Ted Jorgensen, prepared Chinese food for dinner that first night, beginning a tradition continued during the war and occasionally to the present day. About once a month, everyone prepared a Chinese dish and took their bowl, cup and chopsticks to enjoy potluck.

"They are very friendly people and took good care of newcomers," Davis recalled. "Beverly advised me,

from her own experience, to get acclimated before reporting for work because I would never be allowed to stop. A day later she handed me my badge, signed me onto the payroll, and sent me off to work for 35 years."

Davis, who worked with many projects and personalities in her LASL years, and who is now a consultant, said of Agnew: "We always knew he'd be the Director one day. He has an extraordinary sense of drive and dedication which impels him to accept uncommon challenges... and he succeeds."

"Beverly worked as a secretary during the early years, then again in the Physics Division while I was there," she said. "She is a brilliant woman. It might appear that Harold would overshadow her, but she is the woman behind the man and has always been supportive. She has contributed in her own right to many community projects in the public interest."

Davis says Harold hasn't really changed in 35 years. "His brand of humor may be misunderstood by some people, but it tends to stimu-



Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

late the mental process, probably intentionally. He has keen foresight. He is extremely honest and stands firm in his beliefs. Retreat is not one of his virtues."

She also said Agnew is quick to assimilate things. "He can get to the root of things easily, although he doesn't always give the answer you want to hear. At times I have tried to get between him and the telephone to prevent him from acting too quickly, but he always got the first ring."

Agnew appears to her as a man willing to delegate authority, but expectant of high standards. He makes friends easily among the diversity of people: "Who else would have car repairs made by a

lawyer?" she asks. When he decided to become Los Alamos' first senator in the 1950s, he showed up by 7:30 a.m. to talk to people on their way to work. "He really knew how to politic and got up early to do it," she recalled.

"He is a man of all seasons," she continued. "The fellow seems to know everybody—in all walks of life. Many of his acquaintances, such as Alistair Cooke, Norman Cousins, Estelle Ramey, became popular colloquium speakers and helped members of this isolated Los

Alamos community to remain current on many subjects. He has been a great Director during difficult times. As he says: 'Everyone is replaceable;' but I know he will be missed at Los Alamos."

—Jeff Pederson

Marge Dube

Marge Dube was interviewed by telephone at her home in Dallas, Texas. Marge was, as she said, "Happy to be hired 20 years ago to be Harold's secretary."

Everyone who dealt with her was equally as happy. She was all the good things a secretary should be and projected all of Harold's strengths herself. Marge was always a delight to deal with even, as she herself noted, when "... Harold was in a Jekyll and Hyde mood and one dared not even say 'good morning' to him."

Over the phone, Marge waxed a little sentimental about Harold. "You know," she asked, "that he still has stationery with Senator Agnew on the letterhead from the time he was the first state senator from Los Alamos?" She "hoped he'd lose his old raincoat. It hung behind the door for years and was so stiff that the arms wouldn't even

bend. He wouldn't take that to California with him... would he?"

Duncan MacDougall recalled that someone once asked Harold what the proper form of address for him was. What, for instance, did his secretary call him: Dr. Agnew, or Mr. Agnew? Harold said, "Mostly she calls me Harold."

The remainder of our conversation was rather rambling and full of comments that only Marge herself could make. For example: "Harold had world-wide admiration, but he was bashful. He'd far rather give a compliment than get one. He's really chicken-hearted. He takes things to heart and worries about them but he doesn't show it—everything from budget matters to someone who is sick. You know that in over 20 years he *never* said *one* unkind word to me?"

I asked Marge why she thought he was quitting the Laboratory and



Photo by Bill Jack Rodgers

going on to new things. She said, "I don't know, but it would *never* be because he'd give up trying."

—Charlie Mitchell



Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

Robert Emigh

Bob Emigh, class of 1938, South High School, Denver, Colorado, is one of the earlier Laboratory-employed acquaintances of Harold Agnew, class of 1938, South High School, Denver, Colorado.

"We were casual friends back then, oh, it's been more than 40 years now. I remember he was a class leader and one of the top students—and an athlete," said

Emigh, LASL's associate division leader for Energy Technology.

As a letterman in swimming, Harold showed his prowess in the 200-yard relay helping the South High Rebels win a "well-deserved second place" in the Denver Area.

"Rebel tanksters bowed only to Angel mermen at the D.A.C. all-city meet, March 5, to the tune of 34-26,

but not without putting up a lot of keen competition," proclaimed the class yearbook.

President, National Honor Society, Scholastic Society, basketball, French Club, and a dozen other organizations and activities were listed after Harold's name in that yearbook.

The big common interest between Bob and Harold back in those days was stamp collecting.

"We visited occasionally to trade stamps—lots of hard bargaining," Emigh said. "I don't know who got the better of those deals. He probably did—he's a pretty sharp character."

Bob and Harold lost track of each other after high school, but met again at a party at the University of Illinois, Emigh's alma mater, which Harold attended with another '38 South High graduate, Beverly Jackson, who by then had

become Beverly Agnew.

Like Harold, Emigh came to the Manhattan Project during the war. He returned to the University of Illinois to earn his Ph.D. in Physics, and has since worked on a variety of LASL projects including Phermex, non-destructive testing, the LAMPF injector system, and the intense neutron source facility.

—John Ahearne

Jane H. Hall

When Dave and Jane Hall first met Harold and Beverly Agnew, it was a 1941 All-American, straight-out-of-a-storybook situation.

Harold Agnew, president of the senior class, University of Denver. Beverly Jackson, Queen of the May. Engaged to be married when they graduated.

The Halls, now both retired LASL physicists, went to the University of Denver in 1941 as instructors, taught and gave straight As to Harold in several classes, and helped unhitch the only hitch in the straight-out-of-a-storybook situation.

"They were engaged to be married," Jane recalls. "But Harold

didn't have the money to buy Beverly an engagement ring. The only thing he had of great enough value was a red Ford Phaeton, a 4-door convertible.

"We bought the car from him, and he was able to buy the engagement ring for Beverly. He had just gotten a job with the Manhattan District in Chicago, and we told him he wouldn't need a car in the city, anyway.

"Of course, he was somewhat chagrined when we went to Chicago a year later—driving a red

Ford Phaeton around the city."

Jane Hall was an assistant director under Norris Bradbury until her retirement in 1970, while Dave was, at different times, head of the since-reorganized K-, A-, and R-Divisions before retiring in early 1978.

"We met Harold and Beverly again in 1945 when we came to work for the Laboratory, and, of course, our families have been friends ever since," they said.

—John Ahearne

David Hall



Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

W J Leland

One of Harold's old hunting and fishing buddies, Wally Leland, says he hates to admit it, but the Director usually got more and bigger fish—and even a bigger antelope—on a recent hunting trip.

"I'd like to call it luck, but I really think it's because he is so intense in everything he does," said Leland, an L-10 staff member, and Agnew compatriot since 1950.

"We used to work together in P-3, when Dick Taschek was the group leader, collaborating on experiments. Those working here in the early days knew he was a good physicist, but we also could see that he had some other characteristics that made him an exceptional individual," Leland said. "He's a no-nonsense individual, and not the type to back down."

Leland cites some personal examples such as when he and Harold stood in line at the front door of a late-opening PX on Enewetak.

"After some time, the military

people approached saying that a general was going to visit the PX—the reason for the delay—and that we would have to wait until the officer finished shopping—alone.

"Harold insisted that the opening time was posted for the general as well as everyone else," and let him get in line, too.

"We had a certain contempt for minor military regulations in the days in the Pacific. Once we decided to grow beards—Harold's is very red, by the way—which didn't sit well aboard Navy ships. After much debate, we compromised by letting the Navy barber trim our beards

slightly.

"Another time, on one of our hunting trips, I got a deer with a lucky long shot," said Leland. "When Harold and I got to where the deer was, we found another hunter already dressing out the animal.

"With a great deal of authority, Harold told the man how much he appreciated the work he was doing on our deer. The man actually stayed and finished the job before Harold and I headed back with our trophy. Like I said, Harold is not the type to back down."

—John Ahearne

D. P. MacDougall

Duncan P. MacDougall came to the Laboratory as a consultant in 1944. He came to know Harold in the 1950s when Harold was in W-Division and Duncan was in GMX (now WX). Duncan became Associate Director for Weapons under Harold in 1970.

Those of us who came into contact with Duncan at work know him to have been absolutely dedicated to his job. In talking to him about the years he worked so closely to Harold, I found him to be just as loyal to the man.

"Harold's a lot of fun to work with," Duncan said, "if one's not too sensitive. He can have a sharp tongue." Duncan also noted that Harold is "... very sharp—intelligent. He influences people because they admire what he does. Harold is very highly thought of in Washington because he knows a lot and isn't afraid to give straight answers."

Duncan noted that the management of the Laboratory has changed considerably through the years. Part of this change was due to the people doing the managing and part was due to the times and

the complexity of the bureaucracy which "oversaw" the work of the Laboratory. He pointed out a couple of attributes of Harold's that others have brought forth: that he was full of ideas all the time; that he supported all of the programs of the Laboratory all the time; and that he liked people who "did things" and was one of those people himself.

Duncan said that he was surprised that Harold was getting out a little early, but that he had had to put up with a lot of guff in recent years. When I asked for a clarification, Duncan said, "The bureaucracy got worse after Harold got into office. As the years went by, Washington tended more and more toward layers of bureaucrats—that sort of affair. Harold always objected to the complexity of compliances and to the difficulty of having an excellent laboratory without being able to hire only excellent people."

When asked for a more personal view of Harold's character, Duncan gave a very impish sort of grin. "He's a penny-pinching sort of fellow," he said. "For instance, about 1970, Gen. Ed Giller

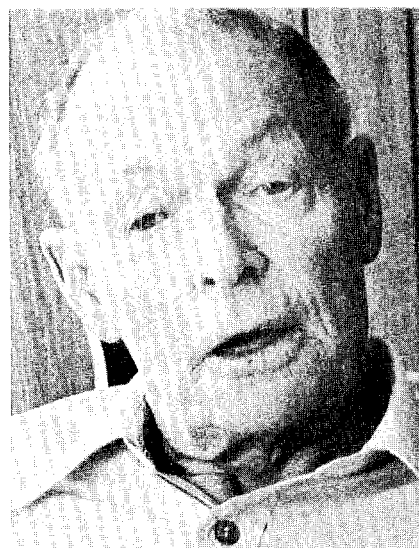


Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

suggested that Harold fix up the office because it just wasn't a nice place to have discussions with the sort of people with whom Harold had to deal. Harold's reaction was, 'How much will *that* cost?' "

Sitting back and putting his hands behind his head, Duncan said, "Here's a true story. At one time Harold and I were talking and I was complaining about the high cost of food. Harold agreed, and said that the price of zucchini had gone from so much a pound to some higher price. I told him that I didn't know about that but that the price of Porterhouse steak had skyrocketed. Harold asked if I bought Porterhouse and I said yes. Harold said, 'Then I'm paying you too much!'"

Duncan also commented that one of Harold's great strengths is that he is a very convincing speaker and that his briefings are excellent. Harold always knew what he was talking about and was comfortable with his subject matter.

"Harold's briefings are not," Duncan said, "like one that Gen. Maxwell Taylor is once supposed to have received. Apparently Taylor was to be briefed by a Colonel who stood and started reading a

prepared talk. After a couple of minutes, Taylor stopped him and asked if he was going to read the entire briefing. The Colonel was shocked and embarrassed, but said that that was what he had planned to do. Taylor then said, 'Then I'm leaving. I can read a great deal faster than you.'"

Duncan said that he remembers an old VIP cartoon that some personal event recently brought to mind. It showed a small room with

about 15 military types in it. They were obviously receiving a lecture on ordnance. One officer is running for the door and there is a hand grenade sitting in the middle of the table. The caption under the running man read, "And that, gentlemen, is how you pull the pin." Duncan chuckled and said, "I wonder if that cartoon isn't just as relevant now."

—Charlie Mitchell

Nicholas Metropolis

Trout served with warm friendship and open hospitality, a relaxed evening with old friends looking back on shared experiences, and just plain good company are the thoughts Nicholas Metropolis has of his long relationship with the Harold Agnew family.

He has known Agnew since 1942 when the two were members of the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago. The following year Agnew and Metropolis met again at Los Alamos. Since then he has seen Agnew develop into a competent scientist, become the Director of America's leading defense institution, and successfully raise two children.

Metropolis first came to Los Alamos in 1943 during a time when the town was little more than primitive housing and running mud, with hastily constructed laboratories thrown in for focus. In 1946, he returned to the University of Chicago as an assistant professor of physics. There he continued his friendship with Harold Agnew, who was then a graduate student of physics and an Enrico Fermi prodigy. Two years later he was back in Los Alamos to build the Laboratory's first series of electronic stored-program computers, MANIAC I and II. During this time he was again able to renew his

friendship with Agnew. Metropolis has been called the "Grand Old Man of LASL Computers."

"You might say I've seen him develop straight through," Metropolis said. "I was one of Harold's instructors when he was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. I feel I've seen him at the beginning of his career and I've seen him achieve great heights. It was fairly evident early on that he had the drive. I guess you could characterize him as being adept at interdisciplinary development.

"I would avoid the term 'administrator.' I would call him an executive in science. Really, I suppose 'adept' is the proper word for him. Harold had that ability to draw together interdisciplinary sciences. This was one of the great-nesses of Oppenheimer."

Agnew's positive professional traits were noticed as early as his college days in Chicago where, Metropolis said, he was hard-working and a serious student bright enough to survive very selective screening immediately following the war.

"He pursued his career rather vigorously. He had his goals set rather early," Metropolis said. "Competition was unusually and

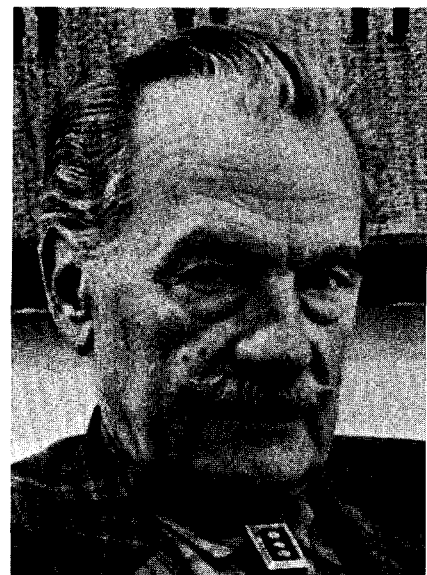


Photo by Vic Hogsett

unprecedentedly keen for graduate research positions following the war. We had a tremendous amount of talent vying for those positions at the University of Chicago.

"But," he continued, "here was a young man with a tremendous amount of talent who had a knack for being in the right place at the right time. He had the sort of drive that would lead him to the top.

"Yet he could be relaxed, fun, and amusing," he added. "I've always admired that he was forthright and I suspect he has more compassion than he would be willing to reveal."

Looking toward Agnew's retirement date, March 1, Metropolis joined others in saying he could see the reasons behind Agnew's desire to move to private industry.

"These are extremely difficult times for science managers," he said. "There is quite a lot of confusion in the interaction between Los Alamos and Washington."

—Vic Hogsett

Bob Porton

Bob Porton, for years the leader of the museum group (PUB-2) and now assistant department head for public relations, came to Los Alamos in 1944 with the Army and has seen Harold Agnew in many lights.

"He says it like it is," said Porton. "You know where he stands. There's no BS."

An example: Years ago, a British journalist was interviewing Agnew around the close of the Vietnam war. He asked whether it seemed strange that a weak, small, poor country could take on, and whip, a giant power. "Sure does," said Agnew. "Takes us back to 1776, doesn't it?"

With Agnew's NATO and nuclear weapons history, "it was not an easy task for him" to expand the Laboratory's pursuits into energy research and other peaceful endeavors, said Porton, "and it showed the broadness of his leadership." Agnew helped obtain funding from sources other than ERDA, DOE, AEC. "He had vision in sensing the change of emphasis from Washington. He will be sorely missed."

Once, Agnew helped to keep the Bradbury Science Hall open on

weekends. "Many years ago we had a funding cut," Porton recalled. "Rather than terminate full time employees, I shut down the museum on Saturdays and Sundays and let the casual workers go. There were many comments on that, including a newspaper editorial decrying it. Agnew knew Sen. Hubert Humphrey had visited the museum in 1966 and was taken by it, so he wrote to him and Humphrey pulled some strings. For the express purpose of staying open weekends, I was given \$5,000. Agnew said he caught hell from the AEC for bypassing channels."

Porton has witnessed uncounted social functions and receptions at LASL. "Particularly after buffet social gatherings, the Agnews would be the last to leave," he said. "They never failed to go around and thank everyone. I think he felt the benefit of them, perhaps more so than Norris Bradbury (Director from 1945 to 1970)."

Agnew, said Porton, is "harder than hell in some ways, yet chicken-hearted and super-sensitive in others. He can be vindictive, and he has a memory! If he has confidence in you, good. But do it the way he wants it done, otherwise watch out.



Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

No one I know would challenge his directorship."

The Director also has a sense of humor. Discussing a program to determine the sex of bees with then-Sen. Joseph Montoya, Agnew said, "Until they came up with this, the only way to tell was to pull their pants down."

A yearly reception for community leaders from the tri-county region was begun in 1978. "He's conscious of Los Alamos being a one-industry town," said Porton.

"He is, in my estimation, unique. He's going to be damn hard to replace. You can be a great scientist, but to do that and to administer, too, is tough."

—Jeff Pederson



LASL file photo

Roy Reider

Roy Reider has the twinkling eyes and short white beard usually associated with Santa's elves. He is retired now from his long-time job as group leader of H-3 (Safety). He is legendary for his tennis game and feeding chopped liver to ravens. He has known Harold Agnew for a long time and well.

Roy is a well of good stories. "Harold," Roy said, "has a good sense of humor—kind of puckish." As an example of this, Roy told of a flight the two of them were on 25 years ago. It seems that they were facing one another at the front of the plane. Harold was seated next to a European tourist who was very ex-

cited by the view out of the window. The European turned to Harold and asked, "Is that Old Baldy?" Without changing expression, Harold looked straight at Roy and said, "Oh, he's not so old."

During one of the many debates in Los Alamos about the use of salt on the roads in the winter, Roy said that Harold commented that "... Los Alamos seems to be having its own SALT talks." That one-liner seemed to make Roy almost sad. He noted that the strain and work of being Director had been hard on Harold. In fact, Roy said that he asked Harold's son, John, "How's your dad doing?" after Harold had been Director for a while. John replied that "he doesn't laugh as much any more."

In the fall of 1952, Harold and Roy were participating in Operation Ivy in the Pacific. Harold was concerned about the number of armed military guards standing around a nuclear device. He asked Roy, "What do you think about the loaded firearms around here?" Roy answered that "at the Laboratory we wouldn't want them around high explosives, etc., but out here we're under military jurisdiction."

The next day Roy returned to the same spot and found the senior security officer looking dismayed. Roy asked him what the matter was and he said, "They took our bullets away!"

Not all of the time talking with Roy was devoted to small vignettes

like the above. He had two very strong comments about Harold's character. Roy said that, in general, "... he has tremendous imagination and incisive understanding of problems only peripheral to his unique abilities. He was never afraid to challenge procedures or rules. He didn't always win, but he was always somewhat in the right. Even though he wasn't always totally right, he was never in doubt."

"His sense of personal responsibility was so great—so 'old fashioned'—that he used his advisory boards for advice, then made the decision, but the responsibility was totally his."

—Charlie Mitchell

Max H Roy

A long-time neighbor and colleague of Harold Agnew, Max Roy, confirmed the Director's propensity for stretching a dollar.

Retired from LASL since 1970 and sitting in the living room of his 20th Street home, Roy said he didn't know if "cheap" was exactly the right word for Agnew.

"Let's call him thrifty," he said. "He was always getting things wholesale. On one of his many trips to Chicago he found a place for dishwashers. He brought three of them back with him." Pointing toward his kitchen, Roy added, "One of them sits over there."

"On that same trip, he bought an enormous amount of salami, a rather loud-smelling salami. On the train trip back he received some rather curious looks from the porters and his fellow passengers. It was very good salami, by the way," said Roy.

Roy first met Agnew through

their wives. "We were neighbors at the time," he said. "As neighbors, our wives naturally became friends." Agnew and Roy became hunting and fishing buddies. After Roy stepped down as Weapons Division leader, Agnew, his alternate, took over.

"I think he started looking down on wormers, of which I am one," Roy said describing Agnew as primarily a fly fisherman.

"He was a straight shooter and seemed to get a real joy out of hunting turkey and ducks," Roy said. "Oh, he liked to hunt everything. He and Po (Popavi Da) used to hunt together."

Roy said he will remember Agnew as a family man, efficient worker and competent Director. He added he could understand Agnew's desire to retire from the Laboratory.

Referring to a growing federal bureaucracy, Roy said: "Things have changed so horribly since I



Photo by Vic Hogsett

left, I can understand his getting out. He is not one to by-pass a problem, but it can wear you down—even him."

—Vic Hogsett

Robert Schreffler

Robert Schreffler, who succeeded Harold Agnew as Weapons Division leader in 1970, has retired but is still very active as a Laboratory consultant. He has known Agnew for 25 years and had this to say about his departure:

"I have a number of concerns when I reflect on Harold's departure. Harold is deeply appreciated by many important people at home and abroad. From these connections, plus his personal talents, follow his understanding of the important avenues for the Laboratory to pursue, as well as a capability to implement these programs. I know that this ability of the LASL Director was well recognized. With Harold's leaving it will be difficult to keep LASL

from being part of an inadequate bureaucracy.

"Of course, Harold's understanding of the inevitability of this increasing bureaucratic domination is probably one reason for his leaving. As I recall, it was one reason ascribed to his predecessor's resignation. Harold's successor will be faced with the problem of bureaucratic accommodation while maintaining the quality and integrity of the Laboratory. I certainly don't envy him the task.

"There is another advantage to working at LASL which is in jeopardy with Harold's departure. Harold has always had the courage to speak his mind. However, few appreciated his tolerance of other

people's views, including contrary opinions of his staff. LASL is one of the few remaining places in this country where one could express himself freely. The only price is to be able to defend your position.

"With Harold's departure, I fear that we will be forced into lockstep with the bureaucracy—like everyone else."

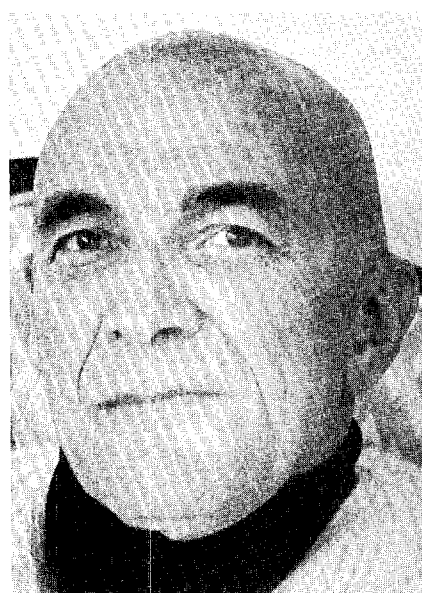


Photo by Jeff Pederson

Raemer Schreiber

Raemer Schreiber in 1945 was at Tinian Island with Harold Agnew and Louis Alvarez, although at the time they were not working closely together on the project that would end World War II. Retired four years ago, Schreiber has the smile of a man at ease with the world, and he seems to invite you to share his enjoyment. He served as LASL deputy director under Agnew from 1970 to 1974, a post that does not now exist. He offered this:

"Since I had been deputy to Norris Bradbury for a number of years, it took a bit of adjusting because of the differences in their methods of operation. When he was considering a policy change or some other serious question, Norris liked to bounce his ideas off other people, sometimes taking an

extreme position initially and then challenging them to talk him out of it. So I generally knew what was coming and some of the reasoning behind it.

"Harold liked to work things out for himself and then announce his decision. I sometimes suspected him of enjoying the shock value of these blunt pronouncements. We had a direct line between our offices and I was never sure what was coming when my buzzer sounded. He was never one to be bound by conventional patterns. He had a restless mind that was continually searching for new ways of doing things or new projects to be undertaken. He could be talked out of some of his more extreme ideas, but it would not be easy.



Photo by LeRoy N. Sanchez

"Once in a while, particularly in administrative areas, I would have to say: 'Harold, you just can't do that.' So he would want to know why and I would have to explain. If I made my point, he would finally

give up. 'Well, OK, but I still think it is a hell of a good idea.' End of subject—at least for a while.

"Harold loved to go out and sell the laboratory programs or to invite groups to visit the lab for the same purpose. He was a well-travelled Director and his schedule was filled with meetings and briefings. I was the 'inside man' expected to handle the internal problems and keep

things running reasonably smoothly. In general, he left me alone to do this as long as I kept him informed. Because of his busy schedule, I soon found out that the easiest way to do this was to keep a running informal diary to give him to read when he had time. By the next morning it would be returned with his notations. Generally, these were 'OK' or 'Fine,' but sometimes

he would scrawl a big 'See me,' and then we would have to have a conference to iron out the problem.

"To me, Harold was a strong and aggressive leader of the Laboratory. Sometimes blunt and curt; at other times very patient and understanding of a troubled individual's problems, but always thinking ahead and highly dedicated to the best interests of LASL."

H. H. Wechsler

Harold Agnew can be a determined man. Consider this story, relayed by J.J. Wechsler, now assistant leader of WX-Division, who has been in Los Alamos since 1944:

"In 1952 at Enewetak in the Pacific, we had the first large thermonuclear test for the 'Mike' shot. Harold made a point of getting out there; he wanted to lend a hand in a technical capacity, and he was attached to the Director's office then. As soon as the test was over, Harold was determined to get home.... We were all out in the ocean on ships, I on the 'Estes,' and he on the 'Curtis.'

"The seas were pretty heavy and rolling. Only the 'Estes' had a helicopter pad. So they said they would haul Harold up on a sling, but the ship was really pitching, and the helicopter was trying to stay level, and the rope with the hook was swinging. Harold was out over the fantail, they finally hooked him, and we watched through binoculars. We figured he really did want to get back."

To some, Harold is tight-fisted with money. "He's frugal," said Wechsler, "but he really thinks twice and considers the long term. About 1954, he sent a telegram from Enewetak to Director Norris Bradbury. We had completed a test, where Harold was the program manager, but its success was followed by a big debate over liquid

versus solid fuel. Harold's message was: 'Why buy a cow when powdered milk is so cheap?' He was speaking about years of funding, and that trait is very respected."

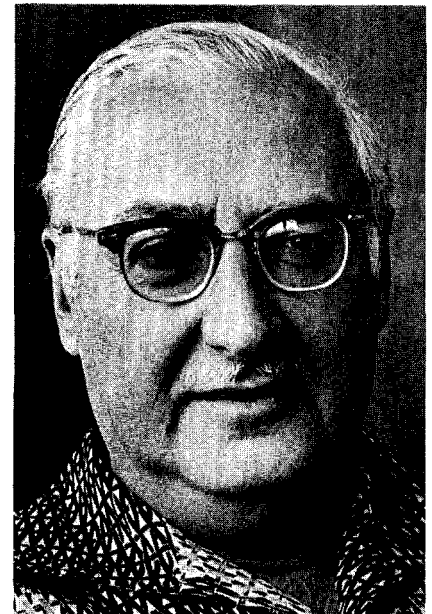
Soon after World War II, Harold purchased one of the first powered lawn mowers—the same one seen with Enrico Fermi in an old movie. About eight years ago, Harold told Wechsler, who tinkered with engines, that he could have the machine. "We went over one day after work, and loaded it up—Harold still had the original manual for it. It hadn't been used in a while. Then he asked me what I was going to give him for it. Beverly said, 'Nothing, he's just hauling it away.' I still have it."

One recurrent misunderstanding, said Wechsler, revolves around Agnew's method of making a statement when a question is intended, such as, "We ought to do this." People get the idea they shouldn't argue, a common feeling when dealing with increasingly higher positions of responsibility. "But if you disagree, he would really like to know why," Wechsler said. "In many of these cases, he has literally been misinterpreted. You find that people are just ready to

run off and do your bidding. I think he's learned that somewhat now."

Agnew also has a habit of calling persons anywhere when he has a question, often instead of going through the proper "chain of command." The problem, Wechsler said, is that "no one likes to admit he or she can't answer the question when on the spot. It took a while for people to realize that simple thing about him, that he is calling because he thinks he'll get the person that can give an immediate answer—I don't think he realizes it yet."

—Jeff Pederson



'Dear Harold'

"You should know—if you don't already—that even some of us who disagree with you from time to time recognize and appreciate the great service you have done for the country."

—Adam Yarmolinsky, counselor,
U.S. Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency

"While I am well aware that the frustration of working within the confines of the University of California can lead to severing of relations, it never occurred to me that they could lead to the resignation of the congenial, capable director of Los Alamos."

—Harold P. Smith, Jr., president,
The Palmer Smith Corp.,
California

"Your leadership has been unexcelled, Harold, and your contributions not only to LASL but to your community, state and nation are countless. You will leave a vacuum which will be difficult to fill."

—Pete V. Domenici, U.S. Senate

"The New York Times, as well as Peter Carruthers, tell me that you have resigned as Director. Why? You were doing very well, I thought, so why resign? With best wishes."

—Hans A. Bethe,
Cornell University, New York

"I'm terribly saddened for LASL; for you are the only reason why LASL has been able to remain a national defense asset."

—Sam Cohen, France

"I do not believe people really understand what a special person it takes to hold a position such as the one you are vacating. It will certainly take at least another Harold Agnew—an academician as well as a politician—to successfully supervise the operations of LASL. Such a mix will not be easy to come by."

—Nick L. Salazar, president,
North Central New Mexico
Economic Development District

"As one who has been heavily involved in our nuclear program and, as a taxpayer, I want to express my thanks for the excellent job you've done in directing Los Alamos."

—Edward A. Mason, vice president,
Standard Oil Co. of Indiana

"I am sure you will land on your feet since your talents are widely appreciated, but I cannot help but be concerned about the Laboratory which has done so well under your leadership."

—Frederick Seitz,
The Rockefeller University,
New York

"A number of my colleagues and I were saddened to hear of your decision to resign as Director of one of our nation's most important scientific institutions. I think the national laboratories and the scientific/technical community will sorely miss one of its most important spokesmen."

—Chester R. Richmond,
associate director,
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

"I write with mixed emotions on your imminent departure from Los Alamos. You have been a pillar of strength and a driving force that has made the Lab a major contributor to both our nation's defense and long-term energy sufficiency."

—Richard T. Kennedy,
commissioner, U.S. Nuclear
Regulatory Commission

"Your announced resignation... really caught me by surprise. That you would be irritated with some of the goings on and that you would be in a mood to protest, was not surprising; the particular route you took was, however. How would you like to come to Cornell for a couple of weeks and give us a set of lectures?"

—F.A. Long, director,
Peace Studies Program

'Quotable Agnew'

"It is a well-known fact that I am the best fisherman at Los Alamos, but this may be debated by other fishermen."

—Albuquerque Journal,
January, 1955

"Oh, sometimes I miss being able to actually do something, which you can do in the laboratory as an experimentalist, rather than just write papers or argue about papers that other people write. Or respond to a bunch of seemingly stupid teletypes or requests day after day."

—The Atom, March-April, 1974

"Not much more than 100 years ago the citizens of this nation were blessed with national resources which appeared inexhaustible.... Since then the buffalo have been slaughtered, our prairies have been over-grazed or over-built, minerals have been taken by the most economical means with no thought of what was to follow. Industry prospered and we developed a throw-away economy. Today... the pendulum is rapidly swinging to the other extreme.... As we could not for long tolerate the excesses in which we have indulged in the past we should not now attempt to practice pure conservation in the extreme."

—Address at the Governor's
Prayer Breakfast in Santa Fe,
January, 1973

"I think the country would be much better off if a large number of those people in Washington would just go home. I don't want them laid off. But I think we'd be better off if they were just told to stay home and receive their checks in the mail, and just don't do anything. We would do much more work for the country, and I don't think there'd be any loss whatsoever as a result of all those people just staying home and enjoying themselves."

—The Atom, March-April, 1974

"It's like Hertz and Avis, and we think we're No. 1," speaking of the LASL-Lawrence Livermore competition.

—New York Times, Aug., 1978

"It is very important to maintain the laboratories, maintain our capability, so that the tremendous amounts of knowledge, which is in the heads of people mostly, can be properly documented for future use."

—Congressional testimony,
1978

"We're still looking ahead into next year and trying to figure out what the Department of Energy wants us to do. It isn't clear yet how it's all going to rattle down."

—Los Alamos Monitor,
January 1, 1978

"When the government wants an opinion on nuclear research, the director of the Los Alamos laboratory is the man called."

—Denver Post, Aug. 23, 1970

"I clearly can't repeat the fine job Norris (Bradbury) did serving 25 years. I'd go bananas."

—Los Alamos Monitor,
January 1, 1978

"I am not a 'hawk.' I think it's insane to contemplate using nuclear weapons. But I believe we must have them as a deterrent, to keep the balance of power. I don't want to see the United States second-best in anything, and the Russians are going to cream us in technology very soon. They've tripled their basic research and we aren't increasing ours."

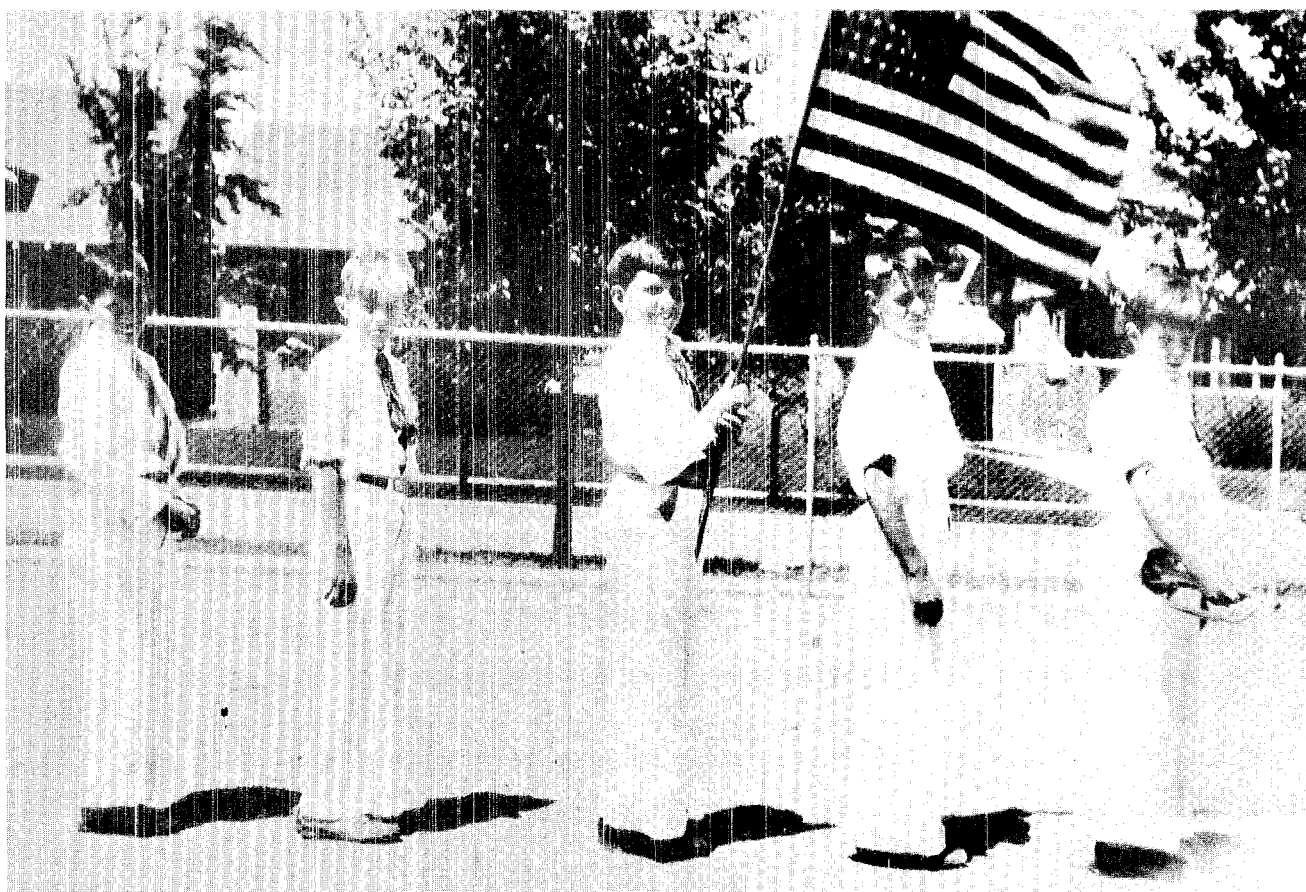
—Denver Post, Aug. 23, 1970

"If we knew what we'd be doing in research five years from now, we'd start doing it today," speaking of five-year plans for the DOE.

—Associated Press, April, 1978

"\$20 million differential" of Los Alamos versus Livermore funds "gives me a bellyache."

—New Mexico Business Journal,
December, 1978



Flag-waver Harold Agnew was part of this Washington Park School contingent in Denver. The photographer of Class 6-A is now unknown.

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